**Challengers**

**Colin Corde**

It’s 3098 A.D. The world is at war, and guess who started it. America. Yup, our president is mentally insane. He’s the enemy, not America. That’s why there are rebels here. Ten percent of America agrees with what he is fighting for, which would be power over the world; and about forty more percent of the world is fighting for him as well. My dad is fighting with the rebels; they’re called X-Rams.

Unfortunately, President Jackerson has enough atomic bombs to blow a hole in the ozone layer. But ever since 3090, we’ve been sending people to a newly found plant named Nuburo.

I’ve been waiting to leave Earth for a while. It gets pretty boring when you’re in the same area for twelve years. I’m leaving today with my mom and my only friend, Mai. I don’t know if my dad will come though. We don’t even know if he’s alive. This war is a lot bigger than world war two, world war one, the civil war, cold war, Korean War, and Vietnam War combined. Mai has purple hair (somehow it’s a natural color), green eyes, she’s pretty short, and is the same age as me. My name is Moon. I have silver hair (still a natural color), white eyes, six feet tall, and I’m twelve.

Zed is coming on our shuttle with us as well. He is the vice-president of America (hopefully not insane) and the president of Nuburo. He has a mix of black and white (somehow *still* natural) hair, red eyes, (people just have the weirdest natural colors these days) and a super deep voice. He’s in his mid-twenties and seems like a nice guy. We chatted for pretty much the whole ride, and how he plans to make Nuburo a much better place than Earth. He says that Nuburo was civilized all the way back in somewhere in 1600 B.C. and the ancient civilization disappeared in 200 A.D. The tablets that they wrote on describe how they left Earth because someone took them there for slavery. Weird right? We landed on Nuburo, and everything was just so futuristic. The land was mostly metal, sand, and dirt. The most out of those three, is metal, and since the atmosphere is lavender, the metal reflects that, making the whole planet look like it’s lavender. The buildings were a sort of light grey metal, and the lights in them where a cool royal blue. We were going to live in Metropolis, which is Nuburo’s capital. We landed, so Mai and I walked out and the gravity was ten percent lower than Earth’s but it could still hold you down. Zed walked off to go to the “New Empire State Building”. This building was five times as tall as the original Empire State Building, and was a lot cooler. My mom pointed to our apartment, I picked up my two suitcases, and sprinted towards the building. I opened the double doors and the house sort of looked like how a house would look on Earth, all but for the lighting, which was blue, not yellow.

“Alright you two, it’s really late, and we’ve all had a long trip today, let’s get some rest,” my mom said to Mai and me as she started to unpack.

“Yes mom,” I said

“Yes Mrs. Moral” Mai said.

I woke up and rolled off my bed thinking that I was on a single bed, and not a bunk bed with Mai. I fell off and slammed onto the floor. That woke up Mai and she sat up and whacked me with a pillow. I screamed and then my dog, Fang came into the room and started licking my face. Mai burst out laughing and then I took her pillow from her and whacked her back. Then she fell and my mom came in to yell at us.

I took a shower, got dressed, ate breakfast, brushed my teeth, and ran out the door with Mai to walk to the bus stop. We exited the apartment and started down the sidewalk.

”Hey Moon,” Mai said quietly.

“Yeah Mai?” I asked her.

“Can you look after Cuddles for me?” She asked nervously.

“Um… Yeah, sure.” I told her asked she handed it to me. Cuddles is Mai’s first, and only stuffed animal. I gave it to her in second grade, that’s when we met. I was in the car with my mom, and we were going to the store. We saw Mai walking along the road, all dirty and sad. We stopped to see where her parents were, and she said that they died. I then gave her Cuddles, (which was my favorite and only stuffed animal) because I felt bad for her. We took her into custody and ever since then she’s been a sister and a best friend. But right now was odd, she had never let anyone but me touch Cuddles, and that was very rare occasions. But also her voice sounded very nervous, and she’s really brave.

Before we knew it, we were at the bus stop, and just in time to; we had almost missed the bus. We walked onto it and we sat down. After five minutes, the bus was stopped by a couple of guards.

“Oi! What in the world are ye’ doin’ stoppin’ me bus!” The bus driver yelled at the guards.

“Well what are you doing on the road to begin with ‘Scotty’?” The guard yelled at the driver (He called him Scotty because he was Scottish I’m assuming).

“I’m takin’ these children to their school!” The driver yelled back.

“Well I hope you know that the roads in Metropolis are off limits!” The guard explained to him.

“Eh? They’re shuttin’ down ‘he roads?” The driver asked.

“Yup, now I suggest that you take all these kids back to their homes and then come back here so we can take you to jail,” the guard said.

“I’ll take ‘ em back! But in no such way will I come back to let ye two take me ta’ jail! And whose givin’ ye the orders to shut these roads down?”

“Alright, well if you won’t come back, these kids can walk home, and we can just arrest you now,”

“Okay… fine…” the driver said finally giving in.

“Hey! I’m pretty sure that the driver asked about who’s giving you the orders?” a kid named Sky yelled out.

“King Zed, now move along!” The guard told Sky.

Back in the house, I looked out the window and saw what I didn’t even think someone would even try, not even that man named Adolf Hitler that I learned about in history class. I saw tanks and hundreds of city guards mowing down all the buildings, and I was afraid they would come for us. Before they wrecked a building with people, they would capture them and take them somewhere I wouldn’t even want to imagine. I grabbed Mai’s arm and ran down the stairs and sneaked out the back door. I didn’t want to tell my mom because I knew she would stop us, but I couldn’t let the guards continue to do what they were doing.

We ran down the street and went to go tell as many people as we could to evacuate Metropolis. Once we evacuated about four families, Mai just *had* to go and follow a kitten onto the road. A guard spotted us and the crowd sprint towards us.

“Hey! Kids! What do you think you’re doing?!? The road’s closed!” One of the guards yelled at us.

“Well if we weren’t on the road, you would take my family and then destroy my house!” I yelled at him.

“What makes you think that?” He said as he slowly got closer and closer to me, until we got face to face.

“Well maybe you should look behind you!”

“What?”

“Look! Now! You think this is alright just because Zed told you to do it? NO! You’re wrong! People moved to Nuburo to *avoid* war! But look what you’re doing! You’re ruining the homes of *innocent people*! Think!” I tried to talk him into stopping but he just wouldn’t listen.

“These people have done horrible things in their lives, they have sinned and must be punished.”

“Sinned? Everyone has sinned! You sinned, you numbskull! Your parents, your friends, you. No one is perfect! Just stop! If you think you’re doing this to please God, then I’ll let you know that this is pretty much pleasing the devil!”

“Well… no… j-j-just… i-i-it’s…I’m…” He stumbled his words, I knew I had hit a weak point. I needed to finish the job, but I just couldn’t he would break, just like the president back on Earth did. I knew I wasn’t a fighter. I would need to leave that to the X-rams. But they weren’t coming. They were still fighting a war they’d won. The X-rams, my dad was fighting something they won three years ago. But I knew I didn’t have any more words to say to him, even if I wanted to still fight back.

“A-alright… I’m going to have to bring you to Zed… I’m sorry…”

“But… You don’t *need* to do this! You can tell the other guards to stop!”

“Sorry kid… I don’t know why Zed ordered this… but I thought I signed up to protect Nuburo… not destroy it…”

“Alright. I’ll let you take me to Zed. But I’ll tell him how I feel. Hopefully… hopefully he’ll listen.” I knew that I had a fifteen percent chance of mending Zed’s mind like I did with the guard. But it was worth a shot.

Mai and me were cuffed up and were being brought down what seemed like the longest carpet ever that led to a throne. The two guards that were carrying us threw us on the ground in front of Zed and then walked away. I sat up on my knees while Mai was crying on the floor, thinking about what would happen to us.

“Well, well, well… Look who it is. Moon and his sister Mai. I thought you two would believe me when I said this was the best for the country. I guess not.” Zed snarled with the ugliest smile ever.

Mai somehow got the courage to stand up for herself. She sat up and sniffed then took a deep breath, “We’re not as young and mindless as you think! Neither are your guards!”

“What? What do you mean? My guards are just as manipulative as you, which on a scale from one to ten, is an eleven.”

“Well then how come they only sent us into talk with you and while we’re doing that, they’re out fighting with all the rebels against your remaining loyal subjects?” I asked him.

“Exactly, most of the people and guards are still loyal to me, and that’s more than what left of the X-rams and the rebels here on Nuburo combined are. And that’s about 300,000 people.” Zed grinned.

So I knew that I couldn’t just leave it to Mai trying to keep him occupied. There was no way we could help the people in Nuburo. I put my hands in my pocket and felt some thing in my left pocket. It was my phone. I needed a plan to try and text someone who I evacuated. I would try to text Sky, and then my dad to tell him to tell the leader of the X-rams that there is a war breaking out in Metropolis.

“Um… can I go to the bathroom?” I asked. But Zed was smarter than I thought.

“Ha! You think I would just let you walk out of my sight?” He chuckled.

“Then have a guard come with me,”

“Alright…” Zed quietly said. He gave me the death stare for a couple of seconds, and then he told a guard to take me to the bathroom.

The guard and me walked down the steps and turned into a corridor. There were about five rooms and three of them were bathrooms. The guard looked down at me and whispered just before I went into the bathroom. “Hey… I know who you are and what you did. I’ll try to buy as much time as I can before Zed notices.”

I was about to go into the bathroom until the guard stopped me again and said, “You don’t need to go in there. I’ll say that you finished and that I threw you and jail. I’ll take you sister and we’ll meet up outside the front door.”

“Alright, thanks. Good luck!” I said as I sprinted off.

“You too!” He called out.

I stood outside until the guard came out with Mai.

“We… we need to get out of this city…” I panted. “Tell the other cities… what’s going on…” I could barely catch my breath from when I ran out of the building. I couldn’t believe that Zed would try and make Nuburo’s government a dictatorship.

“I’ve got a car, I can drive you two over to New Japan, it’s the closest city from here,” The guard told us kindly.

“Thanks, so, what’s your name mister?” Mai asked. I let her ask since we would be traveling with him.

“Private Rameriez,”

“You got a first name?” I asked.

“Of course I do, my first name is Jake,”

“Me and Moon will just call you Jake then, right Moon?”

“Yeah… sure.” I grunted. I thought it’d be cool to call someone by their rank, but apparently, Mai thinks it’s impolite to do that. I thought for a second then said “We should pick up Sky, he’s pretty keen on helping others and he’s always hated Zed so, he’ll want to come,”

“Alright, let’s go pick him up. Where does he live?” Jake asked me. I told him and we got in his car and drove off.

Later, we finally got to Sky’s house, which was destroyed by the guards.

“It’s too late for him; he’s in the jail now. We can’t go back.” Jake said.

“Alright, we’ll get him and all the others in there when we come back with a couple of armies from all over the planet,” I explained to Jake and Mai.

We drove out of Metropolis which was almost completely destroyed. I felt some relief as we left. I looked back out the back window of the car and I said to myself, “I’ll be back… Don’t worry,” I dropped my head down and started to fall asleep.

I heard the hood of the car slam down and Jake yelling some stuff. I climbed over a couple of seats and stepped out of the passenger door and asked, “What’s up?”

Jake looked at me with a ugly frown, “The engine died, we’ll have to go on foot,”

“Oh great,” I grunted. “How long of a walk will it be?” I asked him. He put a hand over his eyes so he could see down the road, “Well… to be honest… I have no idea where we are…”

I sat down, put my hands behind me for support and looked up, “So we’re lost, and Zed has a chance of destroying Nuburo,”. Just then I lifted up one of my hands. I sat up quickly and move a bit of sand out of the way. There was metal and sand. That meant we were in the Desert of Metal. The sun bounced off what felt like sheet metal and flashed into my eyes. I yelled a bit and covered my eyes.

“Hmm… It seems as if we’re in the Desert of Metal” Jake said.

“Yeah but that’s nowhere near the city that we were heading to,” I explained to him. It felt odd… a twelve year old having a regular conversation with a twenty five year old. Before Zed became the ruler, which was when we lived on Earth, twelve year olds and adults almost never talked, unless it was you’re parents, parent’s friend, friend’s parent, a cashier at a store, or a waiter or waitress at restaurant.

Mai started to wake up. She was clueless about what was going on, so me and Jake decided to tell her that we knew what part of the Desert of Metal we were in (which we didn’t), that we ran out of gas (the engine died), and that the next city was only a mile away (we didn’t even know where to find another city).

“What’d I miss?” Mai curiously asked us. So we told everything we were going to and we pushed the car off the road.

Later, Mai asked, “We’re lost aren’t we?”

“Yeah…” I moaned. “How long did it take to figure it out?”

“About half an hour ago… So, what’s the plan?”

“Probably going to walk until we reach a city” Jake sighed.

There weren’t many cities on Nuburo since we had just started to build here nine years ago. We also had no water and no food. Night had fallen and we needed to find a place to hide. Jake said that there were giant snakes that hid in the sand. If we were to step near one of them, they would come up and start attacking, or if we didn’t go anywhere near them, they’d move underground closer and closer so that we wouldn’t notice that there was going to be a sneak attack. Either we stood our ground or ran for our lives. We were too tired to run, and it was too dangerous to rest. The deserts are hotter than the ones on Earth since the ground is made of metal. If you weren’t wearing anything, your feet would melt and stick onto the metal ground. And also the animals were much fiercer than the ones on Earth. The Desert of Metal was something that would kill you if you weren’t prepared for this kind of situation. Rarely, people are. And this desert wasn’t even near the most dangerous place on Nuburo. As we were walking, I felt the ground shift and asked, “Did you feel that?”

“Feel what?” Mai asked me. Just then the ground rumbled. I looked around and looked back at her, “That!” As I said that, a scaly head, about the size of a large house came up from the sand-metal surface. It opened its eyes and then opened its mouth with fangs the size of rockets that would go to the moon. It raised its tail and had a huge rattle at the tip of it. It had a bit of heat coming from it and fire came out of different holes every five seconds that were on its body.

“Wha- what is that?” Mai nervously asked.

“It’s a pyro-snake,” Jake explained with a serious tone in his voice. He reached for his rifle. The pyro-snake opened its mouth even wider than it did before and started to go for Jake. Jake dropped his gun and sprinted off into the distance. Mai and I were left alone. The snake turned towards us and forced its head at us.

“Run! Run Mai! Go!” I screamed as I pushed her in front of me. We ran as fast as we could towards Jake. He wasn’t looking back, but he did stop once to catch his breath. He ran and lost balance. He fell as we passed him, I stopped to look back to see if he was up.

“Go! I’ll be fine! I’ll meet up with you kids later!” He yelled to me. I nodded and sped off with Mai. He got up and started to run towards the snake. He stopped at his rifle and picked it up. The snake bit the gun and almost Jake’s hands. He pulled the trigger and started to scream, “What!?! It’s empty! I never go out when this thing isn’t loaded!” The snake took it from him and ate it. Jake had a really sad look on his face. He would always tell stories about his rifle, he even gave it a name and would talk to it, which was weird, but he had just lost something important to him.

“Jake! Forget ‘Big Tom’! We need to get out of here!” Mai yelled to him. He shook his head. He jumped up onto the pyro-snake and climb up to its head. The snake shook its head around in the air and Jake held on for his life. The snake gave in and went underground with Jake still on it. The whole desert was quiet for about twenty seconds. We thought that he had gotten eaten. The snake flew out of the ground with Jake on top of it. He rode it off into the sunset.

“Do you think that we’ll see him again, Moon?” Mai asked me.

“Hopefully, we don’t know how to fight things like that pyro-snake yet,” I answered her. We turned around and started off in the opposite way that Jake went, I’d be dangerous to follow him. We found a dried up river with a road on the side of it. We hopped onto the road and followed it. A grouping of dark red clouds had formed ahead of us; a bolt of lightning came down and made a hole on the road from where it strike, then it started to rain a sort of light green colored rain.

“Man, this planet is weird, right?” I said as I looked up, baffled by the strange natural colors on Nuburo. I don’t know if it was the atmosphere, or what; but everything on the planet was different then from on Earth. Even though it was different, it was cooler. I wanted to explore Nuburo some more and go sightseeing, but I was kind of pre-occupied because I was trying to save it from Zed and the “Loyalists”. I was really missing my dad, but my dad was really missing this.

“Do you think dad will come to see us?” Mai asked. She seemed to have read my mind. I looked at her and sighed, “Yeah, I hope so Mai… I hope so…”

Later, in the morning, we woke up and started off, we could see a city in the distance. I pointed it out and said, “Look, Mai! A city! Now we can get out of this place!”

“Are you sure that it’s not just a mirage?” She questioned me.

“Nah, it has to be real, it’s not like the whole planet is a desert!” I explained to her with a high-pitched voice.

“Yes… But remember Moon, we aren’t giants, we’re very small in compared to the desert. So this could be a mirage,” She explained to me.

I gave her a frown, “So? If you don’t believe me, then I’ll go to it myself!” I yelled at her. At the time, I thought that I was right, and that I could prove her wrong. I was just so thirsty, I really wanted to get a drink; and I’d do anything to get it.

“Fine! Go if you want I’ll be waiting; You know I’m right Moon, you know it! ” Mai grunted at me. I ran off as she said that. I felt bad leaving her alone, but I think she knew I would come back. I ran as fast as I could, I got more and more tired due to the heat. I’ve been tired for hours, but I just couldn’t stop, I needed to get out of that desert. Since I have asthma, my lungs started to close up. I broke from a sprint, into a jog, into a walk, into a stumble, and then finally I fell to the sandy floor. I laid there on the ground looking up at the purple sky, I thought about life back on Earth and what it would be like if I stayed there. I wondered if the war there was over. I soon realized that I was having an asthma attack, and I couldn’t do anything about it. I was alone, in the desert, having an asthma attack, and still trying to get to a city that may or may not be real; I didn’t know how this could get any worse. I coughed and caught some of my breath and said to myself, “Maybe it could get worse if-“then I coughed some more, “A pyro-snake came and ate me,” I chuckled and then coughed some more.

I saw something in the distance coming, I squinted my eyes. I could barely see what was going on. My cough became worse, at this point I could breath, I thought I would black out. I wanted to call out to Mai, but I just couldn’t. The object got closer and I saw that it was a jeep, but not just any jeep, a guard’s jeep. It stopped right in front of me. The two front doors came open and two guards stepped out. I started to black out; my thoughts started to fade.

“Hey! Kid! You alright?” One of them asked.

“Of course he’s not alright! He’s having an asthma attack!” the other one yelled at the first. He sort of sounded like Jake, but it wasn’t very likely that it was. I don’t know what happened after that because I blacked out.

I woke up in a white room, everything was blurry, and all the voices were muffed. I could sort of make out what was going on.

“Look! He’s waking up!” Someone said.

“Will he be alright?” The person who sounded like Jake asked.

“I hope so, he is my brother after all,” Someone said with a high pitched voice said. I managed to say, “Mai?” because that last voice sounded like her. The girl looked at me and asked, “Yeah?”

“Is that you?” I steadily asked.

“Yeah, it’s me,” Mai told me and smiled. I smiled back and drifted back to sleep. When I woke up again, no one was in the room. I sat up and called out “Hello?” No one answered.

I put on a pair of slippers and walked out of the room. No one was in the hallway; and no one was at the front desk. I went to check every room that was on the floor I was on. No one was in any of them. I started to panic a bit. I noticed that everything was all wrecked, like a bomb had come through and people left in a hurry. I fell and noticed that I needed something to support me so I looked around for some crutches or a wheelchair. I sat down and glanced around the room, nothing was in sight. I sighed and continued.

I saw that one of the windows in the gift shop was broken. I walked through the door way and looked around. The shelves were clear of any food or drink and clothing. I saw a wheelchair on the ground. I assumed that someone threw the chair through the door. I picked it up and pushed off.

The hospital was abandoned; and so was I.

I opened the front doors and saw that the streets of the city were abandoned as well. Some fliers were drifting about so I grabbed one and read it.

‘Wanted: Two children, one male, the other female. The male has white hair, white eyes, and is about 6.1”in. tall. His name is Moon. The female has purple hair and green eyes, is about 4.7”in. tall. Her name is Mai. They are both around 12-13 years old. Reward: $100,000,000. Please, if you find them, capture them and bring them to kind Zed. An army of guards will come into the city, go through all the buildings. If you are not these two children, then we will bring you to the Metropolis Jail for protection, these two children will receive a much greater punishment for treason. Also, if you find a guard named Jake Rameriez, bring him to Zed as well, his bounty is $1,000. Thank you, and have a good day.’

I dropped the flier and gaped. I know knew where everyone went. And if Mai and Jake were found, they would be getting something much worse than jail. I could only assume electro-shock therapy, or maybe… if I had no luck at all… death.

I stood up and out of the wheel chair, I knew that if I got out of this city, I could go two ways, the Desert of Metal, or the forest of the ancients. Both would be no help, unless the ancients were still alive.

I looked around for a bike to ride around on; a wheelchair wouldn’t get me far. I walked around for a bit and thought, “If they could find everyone in the city… Why didn’t they take me?”

I stumbled upon a couple of bikes chained on a rack. I tried to take one off put the chain was too tight. I looked around for a key. One of the bikes had a little pouch on the front, inside was the key to the chain. I unlocked it and pulled out a bike. Right when I was about to ride off, I heard a little girl call out, “Hey! Wait up!”

I looked behind me and there was a little girl running towards me, she was about eight years old and had green hair and brown eyes.

“Can I come with you?” She asked me.

“Well… It’s dangerous out there so-“ I was going to finish my sentence but she cut me off. “B-but! I want to! I want to! I want to! I want to! I want to! I-“ She complained and then I had to cut her off… she was just getting annoying, “Alright! You can come! Grab a bike and we’ll be on our way,”

“Yay!” She called out as she came over to get a bike.

I looked at her for a couple of seconds and asked, “What’s your name?”

“I never really had one because my parents were killed back on Earth… But all friends and foster parents called me Getty,” She said the first words with a bit of sorrow, but after she paused, she sounded very happy. I smiled at her and said,   
“Well, nice to meet you Getty, my name’s Moon. Anyways, do you know what happened here and where everyone went?”

“Yeah… A group of *bad people* came in and took everyone away, whoever was hiding stayed I guess, I’ve only met two people here. You and a girl with purple hair and green eyes. The girl was looking for two people. One was an adult and the other one was her age. Other than that, I have no clue where they took everyone,” She explained to me.

My eyes grew wide when she talked about the girl she had met earlier. I swallowed and said, “Do you know if she went to the forest or desert?”

“Yeah… She said she was going to the desert, she said, ‘The boy I’m looking for is my brother, and I think that he might still be in the hospital, but I’m going to the forest to wait. There’s no way he would go back to the desert!’” Getty explained to me.

“Alright, that girl’s name is Mai, and she’s my sister, and I have to find her and that man she was looking for. Are you willing to come?” I asked her.

“An adventure? Of course! I’ve never been on an adventure so this will be my first one! I’m very excited to go on an adventure! Aren’t you? Well I know I am! Let’s start! Come on! Let’s go!” She cried out annoyingly.

“Alright, let’s go,” I said to her as I rode off onto the street and into the forest.

We had been traveling for two days and we were getting very tired and hungry. We had a couple of bananas from the trees here and there, but that was it. I pointed out a string on the road ahead and we stopped.

“Why is that there?” Getty asked me.

“I don’t know, maybe it’s a trap… this place might be crawling with ancients…” I told Getty.

“Aren’t the ancients dead?” Getty asked me.

“Maybe, no one knows…” I told her. “Here, back up… Let me see if it is a trap…” I said as I reached my foot out to the string. I snapped it and a big rope came up. Getty ran off and didn’t bother to look back. And I don’t think she wanted to be traveling in the first place. She was always complaining and whining.

“Please! Don’t hurt me, Ancients!” I cried out.

“I’m not an ancient dumb head!” Someone called out from the trees.

“Huh? Then who are you?” I asked.

“Well who are you?” The person called out.

“I’m Moon… Now get me down!” I yelled to her.

“Okay, Okay…” The girl said calmly. The net started to lower. I soon hit the ground and the net opened up. I saw someone climbing down.

“Mai?” I asked the girl. She looked and sounded like her so I was assuming it was her. She jumped down and looked at me, “Yes Moon, it’s me… Thank goodness you’re not dead!”

“How did you make it out of… whatever city that was?” I asked her pointing in the direction I came from. Mai closed her eyes and said softly, “Those posters… Jake told me about them. I didn’t believe him but when a nurse came in our room and told us that the city was being evacuated, Jake took me and ran. He said that we would go back for you. The guards saw us… they took Jake away and he told me to run. I wanted to go back for you, but if I did, then that would just get us both locked up. Those people… They were being pinned onto their stomachs and being cuffed up. They all walked in a line as if they were going to a concentration camp. I couldn’t bear watching. I hid in the alleyways until the screaming and yelling had stopped. I walked out and the whole city was empty. Though, I met this girl, Getty, the one you were with, I gave her the message to tell you I was waiting if she saw you. And I’ve been living in the forest ever since.”

I was looking down at my feet. I was speechless. I looked up at Mai and said, “If Zed has that much power, I don’t know how we’ll be able to stop him,”

“Well, I think we should stick with our old plan… Get as many cities on our side as we can, and then we can head to Metropolis and sort this thing out with Zed,” Mai explained to me. I looked ahead of us. There seemed to be not a city, not a town, but a village. A very old looking village. An ancient village. Then something sparked in mind: If the ancients are in this forest; then their all over Nuburo. And I’m sure they don’t want Zed taking their land.

I told Mai about this and we started towards the village to tell them of Zed’s plan. It was time we start this revolution.